

Winter Wonderland Christmas

December 3 – 6, 2024

Itinerary

Tuesday, December 3

8:30 am (CST) Depart WSCC
10 am (CST) Comfort Stop
11:30 (CST)/12:30 (EST) Arrive at Grand Oaks Restaurant in Cartersville, GA for lunch
2 pm (EST) Depart
4:30 pm Check into the Holiday Inn Express and Suites in Helen, GA
6 pm Depart for dinner at Hofbrauhaus Restaurant
7:30 pm Return to hotel

Wednesday, December 4

Enjoy breakfast at hotel

9 am Depart
9:45 am Arrive in Dahlonega for City Tour
12 noon Free time for shopping and snacking in downtown
2 pm Arrive at the Smith House for a late lunch/early dinner
3:30 pm Depart
4:15 pm Arrive at Hardman Farms for a Victorian Christmas Celebration
5:30 pm Depart
5:45 pm Arrive at hotel

Free evening to explore Helen and see all the beautiful holiday decorations

Thursday, December 5

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel

8:15 am	Depart
9:45 am	Arrive at Blue Ridge Scenic Railway Station – lunch on own during layover
4 pm	Depart
5:30 pm	Arrive at Cowboys and Angels Restaurant for dinner
6:45 pm	Depart
7 pm	Arrive at hotel

Friday, December 6

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel

8 am	Bags out
9 am	Depart
9:15 am	Arrive at the Cabbage Patch Babyland General Hospital
10:30 am	Depart
12:30 pm	Arrive in Douglasville, GA for lunch (location TBA)
1:45 pm	Depart
2 pm (CST)/3 pm (EST)	Comfort Stop
5 pm	Arrive at WSCC

Tuesday, December 3

This morning we depart Wallace State at 8:30 am. Lunch today will be at the Grand Oaks Restaurant in Cartersville, Georgia. Grand Oaks is a beautiful old home filled with antiques and art. After a leisurely lunch, we travel to Helen, the famous Bavarian town in the North Georgia mountains. We check in at the new Holiday Inn Express and Suites and will have a little time to refresh and get settled before heading to the Hofbrauhaus Restaurant for dinner. Tonight's German-inspired menu consists of one of the following options: Wurst Platte (choice of two wurst served with sauerkraut, red cabbage and German potato salad); Schweinebraten (slow roasted pork roast served with roasted potatoes and carrots and topped with Rahm gravy); Schnitzel Art (pork loin cutlet served with German potato salad and sauerkraut); Chicken breast (8 oz chicken breast served with baked potato and green beans). And of course, we all will be treated to German chocolate cake for dessert. (L, D)

Wednesday, December 4

After breakfast at the hotel, we depart for a guided tour of Dahlonega, site of the first US Gold Rush. After the tour, time will be allowed to snack and shop on your own in the Historic Register downtown area. We then have a reservation at the Smith House, serving meals since 1899, for a late home-cooked country lunch served family style. Later we venture to Hardman Farms where we step back in time to Christmas of 1877. The mansion will be decked in period holiday décor and we will learn about Victorian Christmas traditions. Tonight, you will have a free evening to explore Helen and all the holiday decorations. (B, L)

Thursday, December 5

After breakfast, get ready to ride the Blue Ridge Scenic Railway. Starting at the historic depot in downtown Blue Ridge, Georgia, we will take a four-hour, 26-mile roundtrip journey along the Toccoa River through the North Georgia countryside. The first leg of the adventure goes to the quaint sister towns of McCaysville, GA and Copperhill, TN, nestled deep in the mountains on each state's line. You will have two hours here to explore the towns and have lunch on your own at one of several local restaurants. We then have a one-hour ride back to the depot. Upon our return to Helen, dinner will be at the Cowboys and Angels Restaurant. Everyone will enjoy a pimento cheese appetizer and fried bread pudding for dessert and have an entrée choice between fish, chicken or beef tips. (B, D)

Friday, December 6

We depart after breakfast for our return journey home. Along the way, we will make a stop at the Cabbage Patch Babyland General Hospital, voted one of the Travel Channel's Top Ten Toylands, to watch Cabbage Patch kids being "born" and getting ready for adoption. Lunch (at your expense) will be along the way. (B)